8.N. Workshop: Risk assessment in maternal and child health: what, when and how?

Chairs: Minke Van Minde, Netherlands, Marleen Hamoen, Netherlands
Organised by: Erasmus Medical Center
Contact: m.vanminde@erasmusmc.nl

Objectives
Risk assessment is gaining more interest in maternal and child health care research, because it offers promising opportunities for targeted primary and secondary prevention of adverse maternal and child health outcomes. In this workshop, several important aspects of risk assessment in these settings will be addressed. The first aim of the workshop is to create awareness of the usefulness of risk assessments in a preventive health care setting, especially in maternal and child preventive health care. Secondly, participants will get acquainted with important topics related to the application of risk assessments in daily practice. The workshop will start with a presentation on the variety of factors that can be considered for risk assessments, including medical and non-medical factors. Next, the timing of risk assessments will be discussed in a presentation, including opportunities for preconception and interconception care. Subsequently, two presenters will show examples of research on risk assessments in maternal and child health care that are currently studied. The first example results from the Healthy Pregnancy 4 All study, a study aiming to offer a risk assessment in maternal and preventive child healthcare, to prevent the occurrence of adverse birth outcomes and growth and developmental problems in children. The second example concerns the development of a dynamic risk prediction model for high blood pressure in childhood.

After these presentations, an interactive session will be held, in which four groups of participants will work on two important issues that relate to barriers and facilitators in performing risk assessments in daily practice. Two groups will work on risk communication with parents/patients, while the other two groups will focus on ensuring implementation in preventive health care. The aim is that all groups will come up with do’s and don’ts and other important considerations. After 15 minutes of within-group discussion, one representative of each group will present their ideas briefly to all workshop participants, so that all participants gain ideas about both topics.

The workshop will be completed with a presentation on results from documentation and evaluation of a qualitative early childhood intervention project. After this presentation, there will be some time available for further discussion and exchange of knowledge, experiences and thoughts.

References

Key messages:
- Creating awareness of the usefulness of risk assessments in a preventive health care setting.
- Discuss important topics related to the application of risk assessments in daily practice.